Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar : Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know whether there are officers or any set of officers exempted from payment of tolls?

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar ; Certain P. W. D. officers who directly deal with tolls are exempted from payment, But they make half yearly lump sum payments to Government in lieu of tolls.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know whether the Police officers who travel on duty are exempted from payment of tolls?

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar ; Some officers are exempted as per Notification issued by Government, while publishing the invitation for tenders.

Report of the Oodukur Special Officer.

26. ***Mr. T. Krishna Pillai :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the 'Oodukur Special Officer' appointed by Government a few years back has submitted any report ; if so, what action has been taken thereon ?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao : Yes ; the Oodukur Special Officer has submitted his report. The same is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know Sir, when the Special Officer submitted his report?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao : Some time last year.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : Will the honourable member be definite about the date ?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao : In 1114.

Buses in the Nagercoil-Trivandrum line.

27 ***Mr. T. Krishna Pillai :** Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) the number of buses plying in the Nagercoil-Trivandrum line ;

(*b*) the number of buses that were running on the above route when the Pioneer Motor Service was conducting the service ; and

(*c*) whether the travelling public are put to great hardship and inconvenience due to the paucity of buses in regular service?

Mr. K. Sankaran (*Ag Secretary to Government*) ; (*a*) 20.

(*b*) 110 buses belonging to different bus owners were permitted to run on alternate days.

(*c*) Government are not aware of any such hardship.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know Sir, whether the traffic has increased after the State Transport Buses began to ply ?

Mr. K. Sankaran : There is not any appreciable increase.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : Sir, with reference to answer to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

part (*b*) am I to take it that only 55 buses are permitted to ply daily on the route?

Mr. K. Sankaran : 110 buses were given permit to conduct services in the route. But certain time-limit was prescribed. It was not obligatory on the part of the owners to run all the 110 buses.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know the number of buses that actually ply on the road ?

Mr. K. Sankaran : The figure has not been ascertained. It varies from day to day.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know whether it cannot be ascertained from the checking registers kept by the Police officers ?

Mr. K. Sankaran : Registers are kept by them but the required figures have not been collected.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : In answer to part (*a*) of the question it is stated that 20 buses alone ply on the route. May I know whether that is sufficient to cope with the requirements of the travelling public and whether more private buses will be allowed to ply on the route ?

President : That is one of the reasons for starting the Transport Service. A number of unnecessary buses running on the road ruin themselves by competition. One of the main reasons why the State Transport system was started is this.

Mr. James Fletcher (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*) : With reference to part (*c*) of the question may I know whether any enquiry was made regarding the hardship ?

Mr. K. Sankaran : Government did not receive any representation that there was hardship and so no enquiry was made.

Mr. James Fletcher : Even after this question was sent to Government may I know whether they made any enquiry into the matter ?

Mr. K. Sankaran : Sir, no representation was made and Government thought that there was no hardship.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : (*Quilon* cum *Kunnathur*) ; May I know whether Government will make enquiries only on representations directly made to them ?

Mr. K. Sankaran : The department feels that there is no such hardship existing.

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai : Are the Government aware that there have been complaints in the Press regarding the paucity of buses causing difficulties to the travelling public ?

Mr. K. Sankaran : For every 20 minutes a bus is starting from Trivandrum to Nagercoil and *vice versa* and as such there is no cause for any hardship.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: My question was, whether Government are aware that there have been complaints ventilated through the Press?

Mr. K. Sankaran: I am not at present aware of that, Sir. I claim notice.

Crude Oil Buses.

28. ***Mr. T. Krishna Pillai**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total number of crude oil buses purchased by Government for the State Transport Service till date 1-10-1938; and

(*b*) the number of crude oil buses in regular service at present?

Mr. K. Sankaran: (*a*) & (*b*) No crude oil buses were purchased; but seventy-one buses operating on High Speed Diesel oil were purchased. Of these, forty buses are now in regular service.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know Sir, what has happened to the 31 buses which are not plying now?

Mr. K. Sankaran: They are not put in service owing to the absence of some spare parts. At present there is difficulty of getting these spare parts on account of war conditions in Europe.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Am I to take it that these buses would remain out of service for ever?

Mr. K. Sankaran: Attempts are being made in the P. W. D. Workshops to manufacture some of these parts.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know whether there is any idea of having petrol driven engines instead of crude oil engines?

Mr. K. Sankaran: Experiments are being conducted to run these buses with charcoal gas.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil*): May I know whether these 31 buses which are kept idle will not become useless in course of time?

Mr. K. Sankaran: Government are attempting to make them serviceable as far as possible.

Vacancies in Primary Schools.

29. ***Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe** (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha cum Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there are several primary schools where two or three long leave vacancies exist without substitutes being appointed in them, and the reason why substitutes are not being appointed in vacancies consequent on the grant of leave to teachers for one or two months; and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly